

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

THE *Forty-ninth* Annual General Meeting of the Club was held on November 24, 1937, Dr D. P. Levack, President, in the Chair.

The accounts for the year to October 31 were read and approved. Office-bearers were elected as follows:—

Hon. President—Professor J. Norman Collie.

President—Dr D. P. Levack.

Vice-Presidents—Messrs E. B. Reid and H. D. Welsh.

Hon. Editor—Mr William A. Ewen.

Hon. Librarian and Custodian of Lantern Slides—Mr James A. Parker.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer—Mr William Garden, advocate, 18 Golden Square, Aberdeen.

THE ANNUAL DINNER.

THE *Forty-ninth* Annual Dinner of the Club was held in the Caledonian Hotel, Aberdeen, at 7 P.M., on Saturday, November 27, 1937. Sixty-six members and guests attended the Dinner, including Lord Provost Watt and Mrs Watt, and the Rev. Professor Fulton from Glasgow. The guest of the evening was Professor T. E. Phemister, of the Department of Geology, Aberdeen University. Dr D. P. Levack, President, was in the Chair.

In proposing the toast of the Cairngorm Club the President made references to the many activities in which the Club had engaged throughout the past year. He said that there was every indication of an extremely enthusiastic turnout on the part of the members to the many Meets and excursions which had been arranged. In particular, the snow-climbing excursions appeared to be as popular as ever, and the new week-end Meet of the Club at the May Holiday in Braemar had obviously met with hearty approval and was very well attended. The membership of the Club had dropped a very little in the past year, and the Chairman urged that all members should, if possible, try to bring along fresh blood so that the Club would continue to flourish.

In connection with the proposed Cairngorm Hut, towards which an anonymous donor had given such a generous assurance of support last year, the President indicated that the matter had had the serious

consideration of the members of Committee. It had been obvious that such a venture could not be tackled without very great consideration and that, while all were agreed that the provision of such a hut would be a great boon to the members, certain points had arisen which made it inadvisable for any definite steps to be taken at the present time. The matter had been fully discussed at the Annual General Meeting, and it was decided not to proceed until such time as the Scottish Youth Hostel Association had made progress with their hostel in the Braemar district.

The President also made references to the difficulties which occasionally arose in connection with Club excursions, and once more expressed his views on the disadvantages of "mass mountaineering."

The toast of the Cairngorm Club was responded to in a most hearty manner and was followed by the Club Song, which was sung by Mr B. J. Grant, everyone joining in most heartily. Before the party adjourned after dinner Mr Grant sang several songs in his usual delightful way and was accompanied by Miss Merchant.

The toast of the guests was proposed by the Vice-President, Mr Hugh D. Welsh, who, in a humorous speech, indicated that the invitation to dine with the Club had a purpose behind it, apart from mere hospitality and good fellowship. It was obvious, of course, that the idea was to prevail upon the guests to become members of the Club as quickly as possible. The Rev. Professor Fulton in a very humorous reply, amongst other things, indicated that, while he himself never undertook expeditions into the hills, he had for many years been surrounded by them and had looked up to them from the golf course at Braemar. He thanked the members of the Cairngorm Club for the exceedingly warm welcome and great hospitality which had been shown to the guests.

After dinner the members and their guests listened with great pleasure to Professor Phemister, who delivered a short address on the Western Cordillera of Canada. His lecture was on the geological formation of this great expanse of mountainous country and, although partly technical in certain details, Professor Phemister described in a most delightful way the vast changes in the earth's surfaces which had finally led to the formation of these mountains. His lecture was illustrated by lantern slides of the most magnificent scenery encountered in the Cordillera. Many of the photographs were taken from the air, and there were a number of diagrams illustrating the geological changes which had taken place. The President proposed a vote of thanks to Professor Phemister. The way in which the members responded indicated that they had thoroughly appreciated Professor Phemister's Address.

SUMMER EXCURSIONS, 1937.

MIDNIGHT EXCURSION TO SHELTER STONE—
JUNE 19 to 20, 1937.

THE midnight excursion was made the occasion of celebrations to commemorate the initial founding of the Club which had taken place actually on the same night at the Shelter Stone fifty years ago.

Thirty-three members approached Loch Avon from the north and four from the south, and a party of thirty-seven spent about three to four hours at and about the Shelter Stone in the middle of the night. The party from the north travelled by the Speyside excursion train to Nethy Bridge. Parker had come to the station to see the party on its way, but was persuaded to get aboard without much difficulty. His intention was to travel as far as Craigellachie, but before arriving there he decided to come all the way to Nethy Bridge and to walk as far as the Forest Lodge before returning to Aberdeen at night. As usual he proved a most entertaining companion on the railway journey. The Hotel at Nethy Bridge was warned by a telephone message from Dufttown of the arrival of a hungry crowd, and a most excellent meal was provided almost immediately after the party arrived. Shortly after 5 o'clock the journey towards the hills began, and a private car was hired and made one or two relay journeys with members and their rucksacks to Forest Lodge. About half a dozen members, however, walked from Nethy Bridge. From Forest Lodge the route lay southwards up Strathnethy by the well-marked track to Ryvoan and then by the trackless valley of the Garbh Allt between Bynack More and Cairngorm. This part of the journey proved possibly the most tiring and arduous part of the day for most members, for the upper limits of the burn on the north side of the Saddle present an air of desolation and a conglomeration of shattered rocks, which becomes truly monotonous towards the summit. Two small parties had broken off from the main body before this, one group of four going straight over Cairngorm, which was shrouded in thick mist, while another group of four ascended Bynack More. Two of these returned to the main party, while two others continued over Cairngorm. By midnight most of the party had arrived at the Shelter Stone. The weather had been uniformly dull and cloudy, with occasional rain but very little wind, since the start from Nethy Bridge. The mist was well down below the 2,000-foot level, and a somewhat forbidding aspect of Loch Avon was accentuated by the gloom of the falling night. The Cairngorm party were very late in arriving, and it was not until 2 o'clock in the morning that the last two members appeared on the north side of the loch, their lantern showing fitfully in the darkness. The four members who had come from the south were already at the Shelter Stone when the main party arrived. In honour of the great occasion of the Jubilee of the Club's inception,

fireworks had been purchased by Mr Parker and one or two other members before leaving Nethy Bridge, and for the best part of an hour the silence of the hills was shattered by the explosion of crackers and the hiss of rockets. It was quite extraordinary to see how the brilliance of the rockets was swallowed up in the gloom of the great rocky hollow where the party lay. After some considerable manœuvring various groups settled down about the Shelter Stone for the night. Ultimately twelve members passed a somewhat uncomfortable two to three hours under the Stone itself, the quarters being found in the rather disgustingly untidy and dirty state, which unfortunately is the condition prevailing there now. About 2 A.M. four members left via Ben Macdhui, and an hour later seven other members followed them. Between 3 and 4 A.M. the rest of the party had left the neighbourhood of the Shelter Stone, and climbing up the steep path to the south, gained the plateau and the shore of Loch Etchachan. By this time light had returned and the wind had fallen. Not a sound could be heard except the occasional call of a bird, and nothing could be seen of the loch except a few yards of glassy water as the party gained the outlet at the top of Coire Etchachan. The mist lay like a white blanket over everything. Just before beginning the descent of Coire Etchachan the mist began to lift a little and a faint glimpse of the steep western shore of the loch was seen by the last members as they began the descent. From here to Derry Lodge the well-known track was followed and the morning improved as the party neared the end of the journey. In Glen Derry the day felt milder, and one group of seven members spent fully half an hour resting beside the remains of the bridge over Derry Burn, about three-quarters of a mile from the Lodge. The last part of the journey proved distinctly tiring to many, the hard road from Derry to the Linn making itself felt to weary feet. Transport was waiting at the Linn of Dee and the whole party, except seven members who had gone over Ben Macdhui, had arrived at 8.30. At 8.50 the charabanc left for Braemar and a car was ordered and sent out for the seven people yet to come in.

It was good to reach the amenities of civilisation again and the comforts of hot water at the Invercauld Hotel, and an excellent breakfast restored everyone after the long night march. Everyone agreed that, in spite of the rather unfavourable weather, the expedition had proved a great success and marked an important event in the history of the Club.

D. P. L.

BEN AVON—JULY 4, 1937.

A COMPANY of twenty-eight journeyed to Delnadamph, near Cockbridge, on a day of fine drizzle and heavy mist on the tops. But notwithstanding the conditions, an interesting day was spent on the eastern slopes of Ben Avon. The ascent was made by Càrn Fiaclach, which comes down

into the angle formed by the Avon and Builg waters. Heavy mist was entered at a low level, but good progress was made, thanks to Malcolm, who acted as leader. Many of the astonishing rock outcrops, which are such a feature of this side of Ben Avon, were examined and climbed, one in particular, Clach Bhan, with its enormous pot holes, coming in for special attention. Here there joined the party Mitchell and Mackay from Stonehaven, who had taken another route. As far as could be judged in the thick weather, the highest point reached was at 3,354 feet, the summit of a rocky ridge on the east of Lochan nan Gabhar on the north side of the hill. The descent was made by this ridge into Caol Ghleann, which flows into the Avon about 2 miles above the Linn of Avon. A good path was found above the river, and rapid progress was made to Inchroy, over the watershed, and on to Delnadamp.—H. D. W.

THE NEW YEAR MEET.

THE New Year Meet was held in Braemar from Friday, December 31, 1937, to Tuesday, January 4, 1938. During that time twenty-nine members and guests gathered at the Invercauld Arms Hotel, and a most successful and enjoyable series of climbs and expeditions was undertaken.

A most interesting note of an expedition a day or two before the Meet was sent to the President by Mr Ian Rose. With a friend he left Aberdeen at the very early hour of 5.50 A.M. and reached the Danzig Bridge at 7.50 A.M., finding the roads very ice-bound. From the Bridge they took the usual path through the forest and arrived at the foot of the Stuic Buttress at 10.50 A.M. The going was soft and tiring, but they resolved to tackle the climb and found it moderately easy, arriving at the top of the buttress at 11.55 A.M. in a biting wind and thick mist. Following a previously planned course of compass directions and timed marches, and helped by one glimpse of the main top, they eventually struck the cliffs of the main corrie of Lochnagar and recognised the right-hand division of the left-hand branch of the Black Spout and, finally, the Spout itself. Very little snow lay on the cliff margin and plateau, and the summit was reached at 12.55 P.M. The descent was made by the usual route directly down the west ridge and so back to the Danzig Bridge at 3.30 P.M. It appears that they found navigation very difficult but spent a very enjoyable, if somewhat strenuous, day on the rather storm-swept mountain.

On December 31 the members and guests attacked Lochnagar again from the Ballochbuie Forest. The large party, which left the hotel in several cars, divided into three smaller groups. Of these groups, the largest made a more or less direct ascent of the western slope of the mountain from the corrie of the Sandy Loch. A second party climbed the nearer summit of Meall an Tionall (2,903 feet) and then walked along

the high ground directly eastwards on to the north top. The third party, hotly pursued by a solitary member who had not been wakened at the proper time, and who was seen fastening his collar when the transport left the hotel, made a direct attack on the Stuic Buttress and had a most enjoyable climb under fairly easy conditions, coming round the corrie to join the rest of the members at the top.

The whole party descended by the Blacksheil Burn, certain members making a detour towards the north and eventually reaching the Prince's Stone at the head of the Feith an Laoigh. All eventually regained the cars and so returned to the hotel after a most enjoyable day.

The weather was kind and the temperature not too low, but a general haziness and low cloud made the views rather remote.

The usual most enjoyable evening was spent at Invercauld. In the course of the evening the members learned with great pleasure of the honour done by His Majesty to Mr Henry Alexander, one of the most prominent members of the Club. The President sent a telegram of congratulations to Sir Henry Alexander from all those present, and received the reply, "I deeply appreciate your kind message and send my best wishes to my fellow-members for the Meet and for the New Year.—Henry Alexander." A telegram was received from Mr E. Birnie Reid, Vice-President, wishing all good climbing and happy days.

During the evening some exceedingly vigorous dancing was indulged in under the enthusiastic leadership of Mr Hugh Welsh, and at midnight all gathered in the drawing-room, where Mrs Gregor and her daughters once more wished every one a Happy New Year. The toast was responded to in no uncertain manner, and the President called on every one to join in drinking the very good health of their friends in the Invercauld Arms. It is not recorded exactly how long the festivities were kept going, but it is believed that there were some very late sittings!

On New Year's Day the party divided into several small groups. In all, some twenty-two members and guests set out on various expeditions. Four tackled Ben Macdhuil and Derry Cairngorm and four made a straight ascent of Cairn a' Mhaim. Seven made an ascent of Beinn a' Bhuid, in two groups of three and four, the former making the south top only, while the latter did a survey of the top of the corrie, one member making a solitary climb in one of the gullies. The weather was fine, with a very low temperature and a tendency to mist condensation on most of the summits.

Four other members spent a pleasant few hours on the Cow Hill in Braemar. Two members went to the Linn of Dee and three went to Derry Lodge.

On Monday, January 3, most of the members and their friends left Braemar, but the following expeditions were undertaken:—

Misses Duncan and Pittendrigh motored to Derry Lodge and had a short day on Carn Crom.

Bothwell, Smith, Mitchell, and Hutcheon, with Mrs Hendry, picking up Griffith in Inverey, motored to Derry Lodge, and, starting

from behind the lodge, traversed Meall an Lundain, Beinn Bhreac, Craig Derry to Beinn a' Chaorruinn. They descended to Glen Derry, opposite Coire Etchachan, and came down to the lodge.

Misses Hay, Davidson, Murray, Wood, and Brown, with Shand and Welsh, had a short day on Morrone. The weather was ideal, though at times mist came down; visibility in some directions was excellent, especially south and west.

Miss Brown, Mitchell, and Welsh stayed overnight, all the rest returning to Aberdeen during the afternoon or evening of Monday.

LOCHNAGAR—FEBRUARY 20, 1938.

THE first snow-climbing excursion to Lochnagar took place on Sunday, February 20, when a company of twenty-eight members and guests enjoyed what was perhaps one of the most successful and memorable expeditions to this familiar mountain. Leaving Golden Square at 7.30 on a bright morning, the company arrived in due course at Spital of Muick. The higher hills were cloud-obscured, but there was ample evidence that they were heavily snow covered. The usual route by Allt-na-giubhsaich was followed, and soon there was entered upon a region completely encased in thin transparent ice which gave the landscape a peculiar grey appearance. Every rock and boulder was enclosed in a glass-like covering through which every detail was clear; gravel stretches were paved with it; vegetation was sheathed with clear crystal and the trickles of water were indicated by the breaking runs of air bubbles under the ice. The passage of the party was punctuated with the crisp crackling of the ice-sheet underfoot. A chill mist came down just below the Fox's Well, where a halt was made. Above the Well snow was lying to a considerable depth and had a hard, crisp, icy covering that made progress a matter of great ease. Most of the party descended into the corrie with the intention of attempting climbs in the gullies. Mist was very dense, and all the indication of the presence of the descending party of twenty-one was the crackling of the ice and the sound of voices. The remainder of the party made the ascent of the boulder slope of Cuidhe Crom and were rewarded with one of the most wonderful sights to be experienced on the high hills. In the first place, the icy covering on the snow had taken the form of what looked like large feathers and birds' wings—for all the world as if the whole hill had been covered with white feathers of all sizes and frozen hard. It was a beautiful sight. The mist began to thin and bright lances of sunlight pierced downwards. Then came the most beautiful spectacle and one which rendered speechless those who had the good fortune to behold it. Gradually the mist sank into the corrie, curdling into a pearly grey cloud that lay stretched like a floor from rim to rim of horizon. Slowly and silently through it rose the ice-covered cliffs brilliantly sunlit,

glittering, majestic; above was a cloudless, intense blue sky; the breeze died and there was an impressive and oppressive silent calmness. The walk round the edge of the corrie was one that will be long remembered.

All the summit plateau was a mass of frozen feathers, the precipices were encased in like manner; as far as the eye could reach, in all directions stretched a sea of grey cloud, tinged with rose and lavender, and apart from Lochnagar itself, all that could be seen of the rest of Scotland was the upper half of the Cairngorm group, glittering white against the blue sky. The Spectre of the Brocken, surrounded by a rainbow ring, kept pace with the party almost all the way to the summit.

Of the company in the corrie, two roped parties made an interesting ascent of the Black Spout, experiencing ideal conditions. Another rope of four did the Left-hand Branch, Hutcheon doing this route alone with the aid of crampons. Four and a half hours were spent by another group of five, led by Dyer, in getting up the Central Buttress gully. The climb required care as the rocks were glazed, but was successfully accomplished.

The descent was made via the Dubh Loch and Spital reached about 7 P.M. The half-dozen or so who were making their first winter ascent were very fortunate indeed to be on the hill under such conditions.—
H. D. W.

LOCHNAGAR—March 13, 1938.

THE second excursion to Lochnagar, which took place on March 13, was intended as a snow-climbing one, but exceptionally dry and warm weather had cleared off most of the snow and all that remained lay in the sheltered gullies and in isolated fields, being for the most part damp and heavy.

Twenty-four of a company, members and guests, left Aberdeen at 7.30 on a dull, close morning, and arrived, after an uneventful run, at Spital of Muick. A dark haze obscured the near and distant hills, and the atmosphere was oppressively mild. The usual track by Allt-nagjubhsaich was followed and, in due course, the Fox's Well was the scene of the lunch halt. Malcolm had broken off at the col below the Well and ascended the three tops of Conachraig and crossed to the Meikle Pap. Welsh took a party of nine, climbed Meikle Pap, descended to the loch in the main corrie, and made the summit by way of the West Buttress. Large quantities of crowberries were found and enjoyed, but, owing to the dark haze, the fine views of the precipices were obscured. Smith and other four circled round the north side of Meikle Pap and ascended by the West Buttress, finding, like the others on that route, the temperature more like that of summer than one might expect to encounter in March. The rest of the company climbed the Central

Buttress gully on firm, dampish snow without difficulty or incident. Little or no extensive view was obtained from the summit.

Bothwell and Lawson descended by the Central Buttress; Smith's company crossed to the Eagle's Rock above the Dubh Loch, descended to Loch Muick and down to Spital by the east side of the loch. The main party descended by the Glas-allt and so on to Allt-na-giubhsaich.—H. D. W.

LOCHNAGAR—MARCH 27, 1938.

GOOD weather again favoured the company of thirty-two attending the third snow-climbing expedition to Lochnagar. A little fresh snow had fallen a day or two previously, but on the whole there was comparatively little lying for the time of the year. Spital of Muick was the jumping-off place, and here the party divided. Smith, Mitchell, Dyer and wife, and Lyra Murray kept to the east side of Loch Muick and made the round of Broad Cairn, Cairn Bannoch, and Càrn an t-Sagairt, returning by the Dubh Loch. The others went by Allt-na-giubhsaich. Train ascended the Black Spout; Lorimer and Bothwell led parties up the old hard snow of the Left-hand Branch and Welsh took a group by Cuidhe Crom and the precipice edge. A cold wind at the summit curtailed the halt there. Malcolm and two guests descended by the Black Spout; Lorimer and Bothwell's party went by way of the path to Glen Callater and caught the last Braemar-Ballater bus with a few minutes to spare. Welsh's company crossed to the Dubh Loch and continued along the east side of Loch Muick to the conveyance at Spital of Muick.—H. D. W.

THE EASTER MEET, NEWTONMORE, 1938.

PROMPTED either by a desire for a peaceful week-end, such as the report of last year's Easter Meet promised, or to provide records of ramblings more substantial than those of Robert found therein, the following members gathered at the Balavil Arms, Newtonmore, on the evening of Thursday, April 14: the President, Misses Bothwell, Duncan, Pittendrigh, and Taylor (guest), and Messrs Bothwell, Lawson, Low, Mitchell, and Whitehouse. They were joined next evening by Dr Sellar, while Rose was a very late arrival. Whitehouse capped an over-night journey from the south by bagging two of the Monadhliath tops before the others arrived.

At rather too late an hour on Good Friday morning, lunches having been carefully ordered, re-ordered, and finally acquired, the party set out for Creag Meaghaidh. These lunches, it may be noted, had all the ability, peculiar to hotel supplies, of transmutation from marmalade to



Easter 1938

THE LANCET EDGE OF GEAL CHÀRN

R. L. Mitchell

lemon curd, apple to orange *en route*. After traversing some 7 miles of exceedingly bad road between Drumgask and Loch Laggan Hotel, the cars were left at the sheep farm of Aberarder, and the well-made track up the Allt Coire Ardair was followed to the lochan. Here a decision as to the routes to be taken to the summit was reached. Bothwell, Lawson, Levack, and Mitchell decided to tackle a snow-filled gully just north of the Pinnacle Buttress, while the others chose to ascend the screes and slopes south of this buttress. The whole corrie was already almost clear of snow, although what remained in the gullies was in good condition. The gully party reached the summit some two hours after the others, having had to turn a steep snow pitch about 20 feet high and presumably formed by the collapse of a snow bridge. The obstacle was overcome by backing up between the snow and the rock face, an unpleasant method, as the chimney was occupied by a miniature waterfall from the crags above. The ladies of the party went up some steep rocks in the south end of the corrie and came up on to Creag Mhòr; Low and Whitehouse made a more direct route to Creag Mhòr, but Whitehouse went off on his own and climbed a fairly steep snow gully because, he said, he wanted to use his new ice-axe!

The Pinnacle and the Puist Coire Ardair were included on the way to the summit, whilst the return journey was made by the Window, Poite Coire Ardair, and along the ridge as far as Càrn Liath, and thence down heathery slopes to the cars. While the weather was perfect for climbing, a slight haze prevailed and no distant views were obtained.

The atmosphere was much clearer for the ascent of Ben Alder, which was made from Ben Alder Lodge by way of the path which passes the end of Loch Pattack and leads into the corrie. The final ascent was by the scramble up the Short Leachas ridge. The panorama from the summit stretched from the Cairngorms in the north-east to the hills of the north-west Highlands, with Beinn a' Ghlo, Schichallion, Ben Lawers, Stobinian and Ben More, and Ben Nevis easily spotted among the masses of peaks. It was one of those infrequent days on which good visibility and good cloud effects combined to produce a perfect view. The return was made by way of Sròn Coire na h' Iolaire, a vantage point overlooking the whole extent of Loch Ericht, and Beinn Bheòil. Attracted by its magnificent aspect, Sellar left the party at Culra Lodge to ascend the Lancet Edge, but found the wind rather too strong on the narrow ridge and climbed Càrn Dearg before returning to the cars.

"When do you wish to be called to-morrow? You see, it is Sunday," did not, with its implied hint, worry the party unduly—a slack day was indicated in any case. Bothwell, Lawson, Mitchell, and Sellar climbed Meall Chuaich from Quoich by way of Loch Cuaich (O.S. spellings!). Low and Whitehouse motored to the summit of the Drumochter Pass and did the round of the Drumochter hills. They climbed the Sow of Athole, then crossed Sgairneach Mhòr to Beinn Udlamain; Geal Chàrn provided a third Munro and A' Mharconaich

a fourth, the round concluding with the Boar of Badenoch. Several good paths not shown on the 1-inch maps were noted, while the day was one of extensive views and a cold north wind.

On Easter Monday Low, Sellar, and Whitehouse did a round in the Monadhliath. First climbing A' Chailleach from the Allt a' Chaoruinn, they followed the ridge to Càrn Sgùlain and returned along the Geal Chàrn ridge and Creag na h-Iolaire.

The Meet, despite the small attendance, was most successful in all respects, being favoured with excellent weather; in view of the drift to the south, however, Dalwhinnie might have been a more convenient centre.—R. L. M.

BENNACHIE—MAY 21, 1938.

EIGHT members and two guests left Aberdeen at 1.25 P.M., in uncertain weather, for Oyne. The ascent was made from there, passing the croft of Hillfoot on the way to the path up Craigshannoch. From that summit to the Mither Tap the going was through short heather, and the rock outcrop on the summit provided the only climbing. Lunch was taken here in a sheltered spot out of the cold wind. The party had become interested in one member's carefully guarded lunch, the mystery being solved by the production of a substantial portion of plum duff!

Bothwell and guests joined the party at this point, having come up from Pittodrie. The main party returned by the track between the Mither Tap and Millstone Hill. Here Malcolm, Smith, and guest broke off towards Monymusk, the remainder following the road to Burnherve on the Don. Kemnay was reached about 7 P.M.—W. H.

GLEN CLOVA—MAY 29, 1938.

THE Club excursions for 1938 have been favoured with excellent weather, and the visit paid to Glen Clova was made very pleasant by the climatic conditions. A company of twenty-three left Aberdeen in thick mist, rather apprehensive of what would be encountered on the hills of their choice. However, nearing Laurencekirk, spirits were raised by bright sunshine and the spectacle of mist rolling rapidly off the heights. Heavy rain had fallen, for the Esk was high and brown, as were also the smaller streams. In due course the Ogilvie Arms Hotel was reached, and here Malcolm, Middleton, and Mrs Taggart broke off and made a circuit of Ben Reid, Boustie Ley, Benty Roads, Green Hill, and Ben Tirran, encircling Lochs Brandy and Wharral. The remainder continued to Braedownie and divided into small companies. Lawson and Esslemont had an interesting day with a rope on the rock of The Scorrie in Winter Corrie across the Esk from Braedownie. Bothwell, Mitchell, and Smith continued up Glen Doll to Tom Buidhe, crossed the head stream of the

White Water to Tolmount at the head of Loch Callater, descended to Loch Esk and Bachnagairn, and then down the Esk to Braedownie. Mackay, McDonald, Muriel Cameron, Melvin, Johnston, and McIntosh went by the footpath up Capel Burn over Capel Mount to Lochend at the lower end of Loch Muick and returned by Sandy Hillock and the Esk to Braedownie. Johnston and McIntosh included Broad Cairn and came down Glen Doll. Welsh led Misses Davidson, Norrie, Murray, Thomson, Woollard, and Welch, with McMillan and Sandison by way of the Shank of Drumfollow to Mayar, Driesh, Hill of Strone, and Cairn Inks, and down to the hotel. Two or three rain showers came across, but views were extensive. The Cairngorms carried fresh snow and the higher hills to the west and south-west were heavily coated. Ben Nevis could be made out distinctly. Most striking was the amazing variety of shades of blue on the hills to the south. A substantial tea was partaken of in the Ogilvie Arms and the return journey begun about 8 P.M.—H. D. W.

CLOCHNABEN—JUNE 4, 1938.

THE second afternoon excursion was the first Club outing since the New Year to be marred by bad weather. Showers of fine rain persisted practically all day, and the summit of Clochnaben was enveloped in mist.

Leaving Aberdeen at 1.30 P.M. the party travelled via the South Deeside road to Strachan, where the Feugh was crossed, the bridge at the Inn being down. The bus had difficulty in negotiating the old Brig of Bogendreep, but the party eventually disembarked about 3 miles along the Cairn o' Mount road, at the second water splash. From this point the party, numbering fourteen, ascended Threestane Hill through long heather. The summit was reached by 3.40 and a route set for Mount Shade. The view westward was obscured by mist, but glimpses of Glen Dye and the Feugh valley were obtained. On the way the Devil's Bite was examined before commencing the final climb to the summit, which was reached at 4.45. The weather conditions were conducive neither to a long stay nor to doing any of the climbs on the summit outcrop. The descent was made by the Burn of Greendams and the Water of Aven and along Cuttie's wood to Balblyth. The Feugh was crossed by the temporary foot-bridge at the Inn, reached about 7 P.M.—W. H.

THE INDOOR MEETS.

THESE continue, to judge by the attendances, to be highly popular events.

On January 24 the President and Mr Hugh D. Welsh presented a number of slides in monochrome and in colour (Dufaycolor). Some

excellent slides were shown, many striking effects having been obtained with the Dufaycolor material. The President's selection covered a wide area, while Mr Welsh restricted himself to the Cairngorms and the Cuillin, where he made good use even of the most adverse weather conditions. Mr Parker's discourse on the Club's collection of lantern slides completed an entertaining evening.

On February 24 we had three sub-standard films: "Crossing Mont Blanc," photographed by Captain Finch; "Crossing the Coast Range, B.C.," Sir Norman Watson's ski expedition to Mystery Mountain (Mount Waddington); and Mr H. G. Dason's film, "In the Shadow of the Matterhorn," the record of a winter sports holiday at Zermatt, photographed largely in colour. Apart from the advantage of colour, the region makes a strong appeal to climbers and the film was highly popular. Mr Dason's kindness in showing the film was much appreciated.

The third of this series took the form of a Dance, held in the Caledonian Hotel on March 29. An interested spectator during part of the proceedings was Professor Einstein, a guest in the hotel, who saw and heard, for the first time, the performance of Strip the Willow. The excellent music supplied by G. F. Davie's band added to the success and enjoyment of the function. This was the first official dance in the annals of the Club, and was so successful that it may be the forerunner of an annual event.

Mention may also be made of an unofficial dance arranged by Mr Hugh D. Welsh on December 10, 1937. A circular was sent to members in town and neighbourhood, and fifty-four welcomed this opportunity of meeting in a social way other than during climbs. Whether the whole aim of the organisers was achieved is doubtful, as the company comprised, for the most part, those who regularly attend the Club excursions!

THE AILNACK AND CAIPLICH WATERS.

ON Sunday, September 26, 1937, the writer and E. W. Smith tried the route between Tomintoul and Derry Lodge, described by Mr William Garden in his article, "A New Approach to the Cairngorms" (*Cairngorm Club Journal*, Vol. xiii., July 1929).

Leaving Tomintoul at 9 A.M., in good weather, the true left bank of the Ailnack was followed to the ford below Càrn Ruadh-Bhreach. We crossed the stream here and contoured Càrn na Ruabraich above the gorge to the bend beyond "The Castle." The going here had nothing to recommend it, and is probably no improvement on Garden's route. From the bed a more or less straight course was steered, mainly over tufted grass, heather and bog, towards the Barns of Bynack, just visible on the horizon, the Glasath stream being reached about half a mile

below the point where the Lairig an Laoigh track crosses it. Derry Lodge was reached at 7.15 P.M.

Two halts of about half an hour each were made for meals, otherwise the going was pretty steady. The interest of the route lies mainly in the views of the Ailnack gorges and in the distant views of the Cairngorm summits. The gorges deserve more time than can be given to them on such a walk as this.—W. MALCOLM.

